On A Mission - From Maroon to Rasta brings together four narrative documentary films, their creators and commentators in an exploration of the journey of the Jamaican nation from the military exploits of the Maroons to wrest their freedom from the British in the eighteenth century, through to Marcus Garvey’s international struggle for social justice at the beginning of the twentieth century; to the emergence contemporary spiritual and cultural phenomena of Rastafari.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
7:00  Bob Marley: The Making of a Legend. Directed by Esther Anderson; Gian Godoy
Based on footage shot in the early 1970s seventies that was missing for more than thirty years, Esther Anderson journeys to her youth to see and hear a young Bob Marley before he was famous. Post screening discussion with journalist and Marley biographer, Christopher John Farley.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
2:00 Marcus Garvey: A Giant of Black Politics. Directed by Mike Wallington
One of the most controversial figures in the twentieth century, the film traces the complex and multifaceted life that catapulted Garvey from organizing West Indian contract labor to the phenomenal status of the preeminent Black Nationalist pioneer. Post screening discussion with Marcus Garvey’s son, Dr. Julius Garvey

4:30 Akwantu: The Journey. Directed by Roy T. Anderson
At once the object of immense admiration and derision the film reveals a personal investigation into the heritage and military exploits against the most powerful army in the world in the 18th century to flee plantations and slave ships to gain political autonomy.

7:00 Bad Friday: Rastafari After Coral Gardens. Directed by John L. Jackson, Deborah A. Thomas; Junior "Gabu" Wedderburn
Within a year after gaining independence from Britain, the Jamaican government launched a military-style incursion on the Rasta community. The documentary chronicles the history of violence in Jamaica and shows how people use their recollections of past traumas to imagine new possibilities for a collective future. Musical tribute from Ancient Vibrations Drummers

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